

Newsletter of the Texas Catholic Historical Society

TEXAS CATHOLIC HISTORIAN

Winter 2022

TCHS Meeting Back in Person in Austin

There is excitement in the air! You will want to participate! This year the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) and the Texas Catholic Historical Society (TCHS) will resume holding their annual meetings in person. TSHA will meet at the AT&T Hotel and Conference Center on the University of Texas campus in Austin on Thursday, February 24, through Saturday, February 26, 2022.

At the TSHA meeting, TCHS will sponsor a panel on



Photo from Creative Commons

Texas Catholic Historical Society Officers & Executive Council Members

Amanda Bresie, President

*Matthew Butler,
Vice-President/President-Elect*

Claudia Anderson, Past President

*Jennifer Allmon,
Treasurer*

*Lisa May, Editor of Texas
Catholic Historian*

*Christopher Wolfe, Editors of
Catholic Southwest*

Catholic health care on Friday, February 25, at 10:30 a.m. Following the panel, TCHS will hold its annual luncheon meeting at the Catholic Student Center near the AT&T Conference Center. The TCHS meeting will begin with Mass at 12:05 p.m. You can register for the TSHA annual meeting by going to: <https://am.tsha.events/>. There is a one-day registration available. You can register for the TCHS meeting on our website at: <https://txcatholic.org/historical-society/>.

The TCHS panel, "[To Heal and Sustain: Building Catholic Health Care Ministry in](#)

[Texas, 1866-2017,](#)" will feature three panelists who will talk about the origins and development of Catholic health care in Texas. Sr. Pauline Troncale CCVI will talk about the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and their role in bringing Catholic health care to Texas. Karl Kuykendall will look at the role of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in the evolution of health care in Central Texas. Selena Aleman will present a paper on the Texas Catholic Conference of Health Facilities based on archival resources at the Catholic

Continued on p. 2

Make Your Meeting Plans Today to Join Us

Continued from Page 1

Archives of Texas. Claudia Anderson, our former TCHS president, will chair the panel. The involvement of the Catholic Church in the creation of hospitals and health resources in Texas was fundamental to the state's economic and cultural development, and the history of health care has never been timelier. Don't miss the opportunity to attend.



After a virtual meeting in 2021, everyone is looking forward to meeting in person this year. (Screenshot by Amanda Bresie)

Remembering Liz Makowski

Dr. Elizabeth :”Liz” Mary Makowski, a long-time member of TCHS passed away on Tuesday, September 7th in San Marcos, Texas.

Dr. Makowski served on the editorial board of the *Catholic Southwest* from 1996 to 2016. When she wrote an article in 1996 for *Catholic Southwest*, the journal editor, Patrick Foley, commented on the article saying, “This thoughtful essay ... marks Professor Makowski as a scholar of considerable depth regarding the study of female religious.” This is but one example Makowski’s colleagues’ high regard for her academic scholarship.

Liz Makowski was born in 1951, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and graduated from Milwaukee High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts

from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1973 and a Master of Arts in 1976. She went on to earn an A.M. in History from Harvard University in 1977, and a Doctorate in History from Columbia University in 1993.

She was a Professor of History at Texas State University from 1993 until 2019 and taught medieval and Church history in the history department and in the honors program. She focused on the study of medieval nuns and was known for her contributions to the history of women in the Middle Ages.

She was the author of five widely acclaimed books on medieval culture, and in 2007, she won Notre Dame University’s History of Women Religious Distinguished Book Award. She



was a talented and inspiring teacher, a thoughtful mentor, and an accomplished scholar with a passion for history. We will miss her as a member of TCHS.

Appreciation by Claudia Anderson

Msgr. James Vanderholt, An Appreciation

Msgr. James Vanderholt was born September 4, 1932, to Charles and Helen Vanderholt. After high school, he entered the diocesan seminary in La Porte, Texas. He attended St. Anthony Elementary and High School, graduating in 1949. He was ordained by Bishop Nold on May 25, 1957. He obtained a bachelor's degree from Lamar University and went on to obtain four masters' degrees in addition to a Doctorate in Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Annunciation Parish in Houston was his first assignment as a parochial vicar. He was also chaplain of the Catholic Women's Club. He spent the first nine years of his priesthood serving within the Galveston-Houston diocese. He transferred to the Beaumont diocese in 1966.

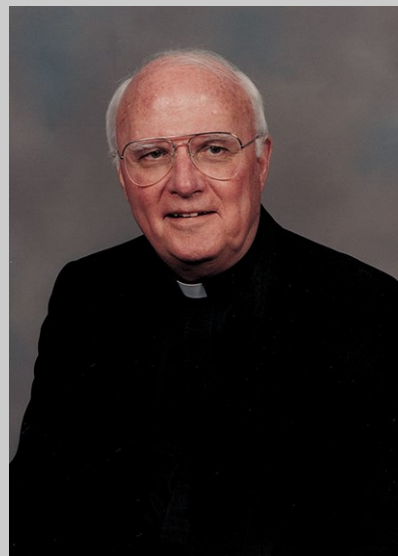
Vanderholt was known as an author, educator, and historian. He wrote the history of St. Mary's Seminary at La Porte. Msgr. Vanderholt co-authored the history of the Beaumont diocese: *The Diocese of Beaumont, the Catholic Story of Southeast Texas*. He also penned *Lone Star Catholicism: A Measure of Faith: from the Spanish Missions to the Golden Anniversary of the Diocese of Austin*. He also wrote columns in the Beaumont Catholic paper. Vanderholt served as President of the

Texas Catholic Historical Society from 2002 till 2004 and became a Fellow within the Society in 2016.

Msgr. Vanderholt's love of history in no way hindered his service to the Galveston-Houston or the Beaumont diocese. As an educator he taught at Incarnate Word Academy in Houston. Later, he instructed students at Kelly High School. He went on to teach at Dominican College, Lamar University, and Incarnate Word College. He served as Director of the Beaumont Diocesan School Office from 1966 to 1975. In 1988, Fr. Vanderholt became a member of the faculty preparing permanent deacon candidates.

Bishop Bernard Ganter appointed Fr. Vanderholt Director of Communications in August of 1981 and executive editor of the *East Texas Catholic*. Under his leadership the Beaumont diocese began Sunday television shows on Labor Day weekend of 1982. The Communications Office also sponsored radio programs.

In 1974, Fr. Vanderholt became part of an ecumenical endeavor to minister in a center for seamen. A Baptist, two Methodists, a rabbi, the director of the Port of Port Arthur and Fr. Vanderholt opened a center in a seventy-foot mobile home. Five years later the Port Arthur



International Seamen's Center materialized in a facility more than seven thousand feet larger. Msgr. Vanderholt also held down the fort as the pastor of numerous parishes. It was frequently stated that Msgr. James Vanderholt was much more than a parish priest. That is quite evident from his variety of ministries and the richness he brought to those he served.

Msgr. Vanderholt enjoyed his retirement years at Pope John XXIII Home for Retired Priests. He passed away on August 11, 2021, at the age of 88. His brother priests from the Beaumont diocese called him "home" to be buried from St Anthony Cathedral Basilica in Beaumont.

Appreciation by Sr. Madeleine Grace, CVI

CAT Loans Odin Chalice

Located in East Austin, the French Legation State Historic Site is reopening this Saturday, October 30. After gaining independence from Texas, Fr. Jean Marie Odin, C.M., used the house to host dinners with President Sam Houston and Texas representatives to advocate for legal status of the Catholic Church in the new

Republic of Texas. Learn more about the early history of the Church, view a chalice used by Odin, and relax in the shaded lawn with a game of pétanque.

More information: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/french-legation-state-historic-site>

TEXAS CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Subscription to *Catholic Southwest* and *Texas Catholic Historian*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ *Email: _____

	Cost	Number	Total
2022 individual subscription	\$20.00	_____	_____
2022 parish subscription	\$20.00	_____	_____
2022 student subscription	\$10.00	_____	_____
2022 library subscription	\$25.00	_____	_____

2022 Luncheon from Jason's Deli

All choices come with a pickle, fruit salad, chips, and iced tea or water. The cost will be \$15. Please choose *ONE* of the following

Chicken Salad Sandwich _____
 Turkey Wrap _____
 Spinach Veggie Wrap _____

Please return this form, with check or money order, to:

Texas Catholic Historical Society
 c/o Texas Catholic Archives of Texas
 6225 Hwy 290 East
 Austin, TX 78723

You may also subscribe online at <https://txcatholic.org/historical-society/>
 The website also has past issues of *Catholic Southwest* and *Texas Catholic Historian*.